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FloorPrep
Legislative Digest

Thursday, July 27, 2000

-Update-

H.R. 4516 - FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation:

The House is expected to consider the conference report to H.R. 4516 on Thursday, July 27, 2000. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; and are debatable for one hour and may not be amended. On Thursday, July 27, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration.

Conference Highlights:

The conference report to H.R. 4516 provides approximately \$32.9 billion in mandatory and discretionary budget authority for two unsigned appropriations bills—Legislative Branch Appropriations and Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations. Also included in the measure is a repeal of the Spanish American War excise tax.

The measure provides \$2.56 billion for Legislative Branch appropriations—and \$30.4 billion for Treasury/Postal appropriations, as well as \$40 million in emergency funding to cover a shortfall in the Federal Housing Administration's multifamily loan subsidy program.

Summary:

FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

The conference report to H.R. 4516 appropriates \$2.53 billion in new budget authority for FY 2001, \$613 million more than the House passed version and \$124.1 million less than last year, for the operations of the legislative branch. Total House funding is \$770.6 million, about \$1 million more than the House-passed bill and \$12.5 million more than FY 2000. Overall, the conference report appropriates a net increase of \$90 million from the House-passed bill. Most of this net

increase is for the operations of the Capitol Police and General Accounting Office (GAO). Total Senate funding is \$506.8 million, \$17 million more than last year. The House-passed bill omitted this funding, since it is customary for each body of Congress to determine its own operational funding level without objection from the other body. Also, following Congressional tradition, funds are provided to pay one year's salary to the widow of Senator Paul Coverdell.

Of the total appropriation, the bill provides \$1.7 billion for congressional operations (including joint items such as the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol, and agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service) and \$860 million in funding for other agencies that serve Congress, the executive branch, and the general public (such as the Library of Congress and the General Accounting Office).

FY 2001 Treasury Appropriations Act

The conference report to H.R. 4516 appropriates \$30.4 billion, \$15.6 billion in discretionary in and \$14 mandatory budget authority for the Treasury Department, the Postal Service, and other general government operations. This amount is \$2.3 billion more than last year, \$1.4 billion less than the president's request, and \$1.27 billion more than the House-passed measure.

The bill appropriates \$96.1 million for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) fund, \$3 million more than in FY 2000 and equal to the president's request. The \$67 million made available for free mail for the blind and overseas voting will not be available before October 1, 2001. The rest, \$29 million, is a reimbursement for insufficient funding and rate phasing in previous years.

Spanish American War Telephone Excise Tax

The Conference Report to H.R. 4516 includes the language of H.R. 3916, which eliminates the three percent federal excise tax on telecommunications services phasing in a complete repeal of the tax over the next three years. A one percent reduction will occur each year for the next three years, allowing the tax to be fully repealed by October 1, 2002. The first reduction would take effect 30 days after this bill was enacted into law, the second on October 1, 2001, and the final repeal on October 1, 2002.

Additional Information: See Legislative Digest Vol. XXIX, #21 Pt. IV, (7/27/00)



Correction to H.R. 4942 Amendment:

Mr. Souder may offer an amendment to prohibit the use of **any** funds contained in the bill to finance needle-exchange programs in the District of Columbia and is consistent with the language passed in last year's District of Columbia Appropriations Act. **(10 minutes)**

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